

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CONAKRY 0219

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID OTRA US GV

SUBJECT: VISIT OF MOUSSA DIAKITE AND GUINEAN DELEGATION TO US

1. THOUGH WE HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO GET AN EXACT TIMETABLE, GUINEAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY MINISTER OF INTERIOR MOUSSA DIAKITE, SHOULD BE ARRIVING WASHINGTON APPROXIMATELY FEB 10. DELEGATION REPRESENTS "STATE COMMITTEE FOR COOPERATION WITH COUNTRIES OF AMERICA," OF WHICH MOUSSA DIAKITE IS CHAIRMAN. OTHER MEMBERS OF DELEGATION ARE ALIOUNE DRAME, MINISTER OF PLAN; DR. KEKOURA CAMARA, MINISTER OF LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES; AND SEKOU CAMARA, ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY OF STATE COMMITTEE. DELEGATION WILL BE ARRIVING WASHINGTON FROM CANADA AFTER OFFICIAL VISIT TO THAT COUNTRY, WHICH THROUGHOUT PLANNING FOR THIS TRIP WAS DESCRIBED TO US AS PRIMARY PURPOSE OF MISSION. IN WASHINGTON DELEGATION WILL MEET WITH IBRD. THERE HAS BEEN SOME PRELIMINARY PLANNING AND DISCUSSIONS OF ADDITIONAL VISITS TO PITTSBURG AND HOUSTON, TO MAKE CONTACT WITH AMERICAN PRIVATE PARTNERS IN TWO MIXED COMPANIES: CBG AND SOGUP (BUTTES INTERNATIONAL). AT TIME OF DELEGATION'S DEPARTURE FROM CONAKRY, HOWEVER, THERE WAS NO CONFIRMATION THAT EITHER OF THESE VISITS WAS FINALLY SCHEDULED.

2. STATE COMMITTEE HEADED BY DIAKITE IS ONE OF SIX STATE COMMITTEES FORMED IN JUNE 1974 FOR PURPOSE OF ENLARGING AREAS OF "COOPERATION" BETWEEN GUINEA AND DIFFERENCT REGIONS OF WORLD.
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OTHER COMMITTEES DEAL WITH: WESTERN EUROPE, EASTERN EUROPE

(INCLUDING USSR), FAR EAST, ARAB WORLD, AND AFRICA. EACH OF STATE COMMITTEES IS HEADED BY MEMBER OF PDG POLITICAL BUREAU AND EACH CONTAINS SEVERAL OTHER MINISTERS AND HIGH OFFICIALS. SINCE FORMATION OF THESE COMMITTEES, A VERY PRONOUNCED SPIRIT OF COMPETITION HAS DEVELOPED BETWEEN THEM IN EFFORTS TO ATTRACT INVESTMENT AND AID FROM COUNTRIES UNDER THEIR RESPECTIVE JURISDICTIONS. IN ALL MATTERS INVOLVING AID, PL 480 AND PRIVATE US INVESTMENT, EMBASSY CONAKRY DEALS DIRECTLY WITH STATE COMMITTEE. IN MANY WAYS, STATE COMMITTEE HAS ASSUMED MANY OF FUNCTIONS PREVIOUSLY EXERCISED BY MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. EACH OF STATE COMMITTEES REPORTS DIRECTLY TO "NATIONAL ECONOMIC COUNCIL," AND THUS TO PRESIDENT SEKOU TOURE WHO PRESIDES THIS COUNCIL. PRESIDENT TOURE KEEPS HIMSELF INFORMED OF ALL ACTIVITIES OF THESE STATE COMMITTEES, AND LIAISON OFFICER FROM PRESIDENCY SITS IN ON ALL COMMITTEE MEETINGS.

3. AS DEPT AWARE, MOUSSA DIAKITE IS PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN RETURNING TO CONAKRY FROM WASHINGTON WITH SOME CONCRETE EVIDENCE THAT USG WILL BE INSTITUTING BILATERAL AID PROGRAM IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. ALL ARRANGEMENTS FOR PREVIOUS AID SURVEY MISSIONS INVESTIGATING POSSIBILITIES OF PROGRAM WERE HANDLED BY DIAKITE AND HIS COMMITTEE. THIS IN PARTICULAR INCLUDED MAKING PRESIDENTIAL HELICOPTER AVAILABLE FOR TOUR THROUGH MUCH OF GUINEAN INTERIOR IN NOVEMBER 1974 (TOUR THAT RESULTED IN IDENTIFICATION OF AID PROJECT FOR MODEL FARM AT FARANAH). STATE COMMITTEE, AND PRESIDENT TOURE PERSONALLY, HAVE CONCURRED IN PRINCIPLE IN THIS PROPOSED PROJECT, AND DIAKITE WILL WISH TO DISCUSS SOME OF DETAILS, PARTICULARLY EXTENT OF US ASSISTANCE. THOUGH EMBASSY HAS ENDEAVORED EXPLAIN TO HIM THAT USAID PROCEDURES WOULD NOT PERMIT SIGNATURE OF ANY FORMAL AGREEMENT AT THIS STAGE, DIAKITE STILL HOPES TO REACH SOME AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE WITH STATE AND AID OFFICIALS AS EVIDENCE OF "SUCCESS" HIS MISSION.

4. OTHER MATTERS IN AID FIELD THAT DIAKITE AND DELEGATION MAY RAISE ARE (A) GUINEA'S REQUEST FOR PL480 TITLE I PROGRAM IN FISCAL 75; (B) POSSIBILITIES DROUGHT-RELATED REHABILITATION PROGRAM IN NORTHERN GUINEA; AND (C)--PARTICULARLY SINCE MINISTER OF LIVESTOCK IS MEMBER OF DELEGATION--POSSIBILITIES OF FUTURE AID PARTICIPATION IN AREA OF LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT.

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REGARDING LATTER TWO SUBJECTS, EMBASSY HAS NOT DISCUSSED WITH GUINEANS ANY POSSIBLE FOLLOW-UP ON AID-FINANCED SURVEY OF WATER RESOURCES, WHICH ALSO OCCURRED IN NOVEMBER 1974(ROMIG MISSION). IS USG IS CONTE LATING ANY PROGRAM IN THIS FIELD, IT WILL BE GOOD NEWS TO DIAKITE. REGARDING LIVESTOCK, DR. KEKOURA CAMARA GREATLY IMPRESSED AND GRATEFUL FOR RAPID USG RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN VACCINATION CAMPAIGN AGAINST PLEURO-BOVINE PNEUMONIA. THOUGH USG MATERIAL CONTRIBUTION SO FAR EXTREMELY

SMALL, IT HAS HAD CATALYZING EFFECT IN GETTING UNDP/FAO PROGRAM UNDER WAY.

5. FOR DEPT'S INFORMATION, FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF BIOGRAPHIC SKETCHES OF GUINEA DELEGATION MEMBERS:

A. MOUSSA DIAKITE. DIAKITE'S CURRENT HIGH STANDING AS MINISTER INTERIOR AND SECURITY DOMAIN AND STATE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN IS REWARD FOR 17 YEARS LOYAL, ALBEIT REPORTEDLY SOMETIMES INEPT, SERVICE TO SEKOU TOURE IN VARIETY OF MINISTERIAL-LEVEL POSTS. WAS IN FRENCH ADMINISTRATION AND LABOR UNION AFFAIRS BEFORE INDEPENDENCE. THIS IS HIS FOURTH VISIT TO US, AND HE REMEMBERS VIVIDLY--AND OFTEN DISCUSSES-- A MEETING WITH PRESIDENT KENNEDY IN 1962 AT TIME OF SIGNING OF ORIGINAL BOKE AGREEMENTS. THOUGH PREVIOUS BIOGRAPHIC REPORTS DO NOT REFLECT THIS, DIAKITE HAS SHOWN CONSIDERABLE SELF-CONFIDENCE IN HIS NEW POSITION AND HAS COME QUICKLY TO THE POINT WHEN HE HAS SOMETHING TO SAY.

B. ALIOUME DRAME. DRAME IS WELL EDUCATED, WITH DEGREES IN LAW AND TAXES FROM PARIS UNIVERSITIES, AND HAS HELD SEVERAL KEY MINISTERIAL POSTS SINCE 1958, EXCEPT FOR A PERIOD IN MID-60'S AS AMBASSADOR TO IVORY COAST. DRAME IS AN UNCLE OF DIALLO TELL, AND IS ONE OF MINISTERIAL REPRESENTATIVES OF FOULAH TRIBE, GENERALLY CONSIDERED THE TRIBE LEAST ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT SEKOU TOURE. EMBASSY HAS HAD RELATIVELY LITTLE RECENT CONTACT WITH DRAME. WE UNDERSTAND THAT HE AS GOG OFFICIAL PRIMARILY RESPONSIBLE FOR UNDP PROGRAMS IN GUINEA, MAY HAVE SEPARATE MISSION IN NY TO DISCUSS UNDP MATTERS.

C. KEKOURA CAMARA. CAMARA WAS MUCH RESPECTED BY US AND WHO OFFICIALS WHO DEALT WITH HIM AS MINISTER OF HEALTH AND AS HEAD OF FORMER PASTORIA RESEARCH INSTITUTE. HE CONTINUES TO BE IMPRESSIVE IN HIS NEW POST, MINISTER FOR LIVESTOCK AND FISHERIES. THOUGH GENERALLY CONSIDERED A NON-POLITICAL TECHNICIAN, HE MAY BE ON HIS WAY UP, AND SEEMS TO HAVE THE PRESIDENT CONFIDENCE. CAMARA IS ALSO MOST SENIOR GOG OFFICIAL DEALING CONFIDENTIAL

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WITH LAW OF THE SEA MATTERS, AND LED DELEGATION TO 1974 CARACAS CONFERENCE.

D. SEKOU CAMARA. CAMARA WAS CONSUL GENERAL IN SANIKELE LIBERIA BEFORE TAKING PRESENT POST IN MID-1974. HE IS IN HIS MID-30'S. HE WORKS HARD IN ALMOST DAILY CONTACTS WITH EMBOFFS, IS PLEASANT, COOPERATIVE, AND ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT HIS FIRST CHANCE TO VISIT US. HE SPEAKS SOME ENGLISH.

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